

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2445

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5663

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES: A
CHANCE FOR IMPROVEMENTS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 5176, (B) MOSCOW 5503, (C) MOSCOW 5324,
(D) STATE 77415, (E) MOSCOW 4141.

1. FOLLOWING SCICOUNS'S DELIVERY OF FLETCHER LETTER (REPORTED REF A), ACADEMY PRESIDENT ALEKSANDROV ASKED WHETHER THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE ACADEMY IN CURRENT US-USSR COOPERATION. SCICOUNS RESPONDED THAT THERE ARE TWO AREAS IN WHICH ACADEMY IS SOMETIMES INADEQUATE IN ITS HOST RESPONSIBILITIES : (A) LATE OR INSUFFICIENT PREPARATION OF PROGRAM UNDER THE EXCHANGES AND (B) OCCASIONALLY POOR ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING LEAVING INCOMING VISITORS UNMET AND STRANDED AT AIRPORTS. ASKED BY ALEKSANDROV WHETHER ANY SUCH INCIDENTS HAD OCCURRED RECENTLY, SCICOUNS RELATED PROBLEMS ARISING WITH ACKERMAN (REF B) AND LUCAS (REF C) WITHIN PAST WEEK. AT DEPARTURE OF SCICOUNS, ALEKSANDROV ASKED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON LAPSES BY THE ACADEMY.

2. IN PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT, EMBASSY HAS SINCE LEARNED THAT FRG AMBASSADOR, IN RECENT CALL ON ALEKSANDROV, EXPRESSED DIS-SATISFACTION WITH ARRANGEMENTS SOVIET ACADEMY HAS BEEN MAKING FOR GERMAN EXCHANGE SCIENTISTS AND WARNED THAT FRG SCIENCE COMMUNITY IS CURRENTLY RAPIDLY LOSING INTEREST IN CONTINUED COOPERATION UNDER THOSE UNSATISFACTORY CONDITIONS. FURTHER,
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BRITISH SCICOUNS HAS ADVISED THAT HM AMBASSADOR IN 8 APRIL

INITIAL CALL ON ALEKSANDROV, SOUNDED SAME STRONG ALARM FROM
BRITISH VIEWPOINT.

3. IN EMBASSY VIEW, OPPORTUNITY CURRENTLY EXISTS TO REDIRECT
COOPERATION WITH ACADEMY TOWARD PROGRAMS MORE NEARLY BALANCED AND
PRODUCTIVE FOR THE US. AREAS IN WHICH IMPROVEMENT COULD BE
EXPECTED INCLUDE.

(A) OVERALL BETTER AND EARLIER PREPARATIONS OF PROGRAMS, INCLUDING
PROMPT DELINEATION OF INSTITUTES TO BE VISITED AND FULLER
DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES TO BE AVAILABLE (EQUIPMENT
TECHNICAL SERVICES, ETC.).

(B) MORE-OPEN ACCESS, INCLUDING LESS-FREQUENT AUTOMATIC REFUSALS
FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDIES IN WHAT SHOULD BE OPEN INSTITUTES IN
CLOSED AREAS.

(C) BETTER SUPPORT, IN LINE WITH RUSSIAN HOSTING TRADITION, OF
THE EXCHANGEES (E.G., ACCESS TO "D" COUPONS, BETTER HOUSING, RIGHT
TO AUTOMOBILE PURCHASE, AND DUTY-FREE IMPORT OF ITEMS FOR PERSONAL
CONSUMPTION).

(D) PROVISION TO EXCHANGEES OF EXIT VISAS ON ARRIVAL AT LATEST
(FYI. EXIT VISAS ARE GENERALLY PROVIDED TO EXCHANGEES ONLY JUST
PRIOR TO SCHEDULED DEPARTURE. IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, THAT
SYSTEM CAN BE A DISASTER, AND IT HAS OFTEN BROKEN DOWN EVEN ON
ROUTINE DEPARTURES, CAUSING A DISCOMFITING AND INCONVENEINT DELAY
AS AN EXCHANGEES LAST MEMORY OF HIS SOVIET EXPERIENCE. MOST
RECENTLY, EXCHANGEES BILANIUK'S WIFE WAS DELAYED 24 HOURS IN MOSCOW
AFTER ACADEMY OFFICIALS IN KIEV FORGOT TO GIVE HER AN EXIT VISA).

4. CALLS BY FRG AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S PLUS RECENT INTERNAL
HIGH-LEVEL CRITICISM OF THE ACADEMY, COULD CREATE A MORE MALLEABLE
SITUATION WITHIN THE NORMALLY UNRESPONSIVE FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPART-
MENT OF THE ACADEMY. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, AMBASSADOR WOULD THUS
PLAN TO CALL ON ALEKSANDROV TO MAKE POINTS A-D ABOVE WHEN HE RETURNS
FROM WESTERN EUROPE NEXT WEEK. PLEASE ADVISE.

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